

Emma Batchelor

From: Norman Rich <eenrich@bigpond.com>
Sent: Sunday, 16 December 2012 6:13 PM
To: Public Hazzard's Office Email
Subject: Newcastle--big issues that must be faced

Dear Brad

In the press releases to date the Newcastle Harbour frontage/ railway line redevelopment is preented as an issue confined to housing and local transport but it should not be limited to that.

I have long pushed for more of the State's import/export maritime activity to be located in Newcastle Harbour rather than Botany Bay because of the huge problems in shifting goods between the latter and the factories and warehouses of the west and south-west, across densely-trafficked suburbs. I warned you when you were in Opposition that the Patrick Stevedores development of the Botany Bay northern foreshores would leave you with a financial albatross around your neck when you gained Government and even went to Macquarie Street to talk with the two shadow ministers concerned. But your party leadership lay down on the issue and now you have the problem I foresaw.

But at least now you have the chance to see that the problem does not get worse. The new transport hub at Wickham should make provision for a greatly increased volume of heavy goods traffic between Newcastle Harbour and Sydney's west . Also, in the planning of the works there should be an examination of an upgrading of the heavy rail connection between the Main Northern Line and the Harbour---probably most practicable in the vicinity of the old BHP wharves. If you are going to spend some \$200 million of taxpayers'money at Newcastle, my suggestions should be seen as maximising the benefits in the long term for the WHOLE of NSW.

You would be well aware that I would not be sending you this unless I had the hands-on experience with the operation of both Newcastle and Botany Bay.

I would be happy to come to your office for a discussion if you feel it would be useful.

Best wishes for 2013

Norman Rich